

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed August 23, 2005. Claims 1, 6, 19, 23, 29, and 33 have been amended herein. Claims 1-4, 6-21, 23-26, 29-31, and 33-37 remain pending in the present application.

Claims 5, 22, 27, 28, and 32 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the cancelled subject matter to the public.

In the Office Action, pending claims 1-4, 8, 9, 19-21, 25-31, 35, and 36 have been preliminarily rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In addition, pending claim 10 has been preliminarily rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Pending claims 11-18 have been allowed and claims 5-7, 22-24, and 32-34 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

The Applicant respectfully traverses all of the rejections of the Office Action. However, in response, the Applicant has accepted the allowed claims and placed dependent claims 5-7, 22-24, and 32-34 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application and presently pending claims 1-4, 6-21, 23-26, 29-31, and 33-37 is respectfully requested.

I. Acceptance of Allowed Claims

In the Office Action, claims 11-18 were allowed. The Applicant accepts allowed claims 11-18.

II. Response to Claim Rejections and Objections

In the Office Action, pending claims 1-4, 8, 9, 19-21, 25-31, 35, and 36 have been preliminarily rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In addition, pending claim 10 has been preliminarily rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Further, claims 5-7, 22-24, and 32-34 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action reads that the claims that have been objected to would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the above-mentioned, the Applicant has:

- a. amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 5;
- b. amended claim 19 to incorporate the limitations of claim 22; and
- c. amended claim 29 to incorporate the limitations of claim 32.

By incorporating the limitations of claims 5, 22, and 32, into independent claims 1, 19, and 29, respectively, claims 5, 22, and 32 have been written in independent form. As a result, amended independent claims 1, 19, and 29 are now in condition for allowance.

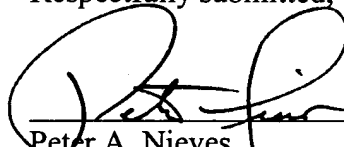
If independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record, then its dependent claims 2-4, and 6-10 are allowable as a matter of law. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). In addition, if independent claim 19 is allowable over the prior art of record, then its dependent claims 20, 21, and 23-26 are allowable as a matter of law. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Further, if independent

claim 29 is allowable over the prior art of record, then its dependent claims 30, 31, and 33-37 are allowable as a matter of law. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and rejections have been traversed, rendered moot and/or accommodated, and that presently pending claims 1-4, 6-21, 23-26, 29-31, and 33-37 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and the presently pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 627-8134.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter A. Nieves
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 48,173

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By: 

Renee P. Granito